

Speaker, allow me to assure Members that their arguments are without substance.

According to a study by Professor Jerry Hausman, an economist at MIT, the assumptions from opponents such as the Consuming Industry's Trade Action Council were fundamentally flawed. Hausman's study, which unlike the CITAC study so often quoted in the media, accurately reflected the current steel market, showed the tariffs would cost the average consumer about \$2 a year and have no negative impact on the U.S. economy. This was a study of stronger remedies than were actually proposed by the International Trade Commission. Hausman's study showed that the section 201 remedies would provide a net benefit of \$9 billion a year to the U.S. economy. Steel constitutes only a small share of the total cost of most products that contain steel, so the cost to the consumer and the costs on a single consumer item would be minimal.

For a typical family car, the increase caused by the imposition of a 40 percent tariff would be about \$60, a 30 percent tariff in the tariff structure proposed by the President would be substantially less. For a refrigerator, the increase would be less than \$3.

Again, I have to congratulate the President for being engaged on these issues, looking past the cannot at the substance, and being concerned about many of the communities we have in places like western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia where people have built a living and built living wages around a steel industry that we need to have in this country for strategic reasons, and if we are going to maintain our industrial base.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has had the courage to take on this tough issue. We need to do more in Congress. We need to look at the issue of legacy costs. We need to look at ways potentially of participating in a global effort to rationalize the industry; but in the end, we can build on this 201 decision, we can build on the President's courage, and working with the administration, we have an opportunity to lay the groundwork for a strong, healthy competitive world-class American steel industry that is allowed to compete on a level playing field.

INTEGRITY ABOVE ALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRENSHAW). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, this morning the Committee on Resources heard testimony from investigators and from the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife and others in regards to a scheme put forward by several Federal employees to alter a lynx study in the northwestern part of the Nation.

It is very important for us as government employees to maintain the integ-

rity of the process, and a part of that goes clear down to our field employees upon whom we depend very heavily to deliver a product that they are required by protocol to deliver. What do I mean by this? What happened is we had several biologists, Ray Scharpf, Mitch Wainright, Sarah LaMarr and Tim McCracken, Federal employees involved in a lynx study in the northwest part of this Nation. These are professional biologists or associated with professional biologists.

Their job was to go out and determine whether or not there was any evidence of lynx in a forest, to then determine whether or not further investigation was necessary. What these individuals did was go out and planted evidence. They planted evidence, just like a bad cop goes into a house and plants drugs. They planted lynx hair and submitted the lynx hair to the laboratory in hopes that the laboratory would assume that there were now lynx in this area that they had studied.

The average biologist that we have working for the Forest Service or for the Fish and Wildlife are people of high integrity. I cannot think of a biologist that I have met that I have not been fairly confident of the integrity and the standards that they rise to.

But in this case, these Federal employees brought a disgrace upon the United States Government and brought a disgrace upon these agencies by planting evidence and submitting false samples for a survey. Unfortunately, these employees are still employed by the Federal Government. Fortunately, we had a whistle blower. An employee on his last day called in the fact that false samples had been submitted to this survey.

My point in taking the floor today is that I appreciate the Members who attended the hearing today, and I especially appreciate the investigators who went out and came up with these conclusions. We know that these employees knew that what they were doing was wrong and outside their protocol, but they still carried out their actions.

Mr. Speaker, today we had a good hearing about it, and I think we will be able to install some fire walls that will prevent this type of scheme from happening again. In the meantime, it has unfortunately cast a small shadow upon the profession. What we need to do is assure that that profession has no shadow at all because their importance in our studies out there are absolutely critical. We depend on them very much, very much; and we have good reason to depend on them. They are the experts, but integrity comes first and above all.

STOP IMPENDING RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. CARSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with several of my colleagues, to discuss the most pressing domestic issue of our time, that of Social Security.

Let me first begin by thanking my fellow freshman Democrat, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), for his leadership in organizing with me this Special Order about the impending raid of Social Security. I also want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for her leadership and assistance in organizing our colleagues here today.

Our Nation faces incredible challenges; this we all know as we stand united in a war on terrorism. All of our thoughts and prayers are with our men and women in uniform today. This afternoon I stand before this House to talk about one of the most pressing domestic issues of our time, an issue that cannot be ignored even as we fight a war abroad, and that is Social Security.

Around the world as populations of developed countries grow older, the cost of paying for pension and health benefits rise. In the United States, more than 44 million people collect benefits from our Social Security system. Social Security represents one of the most important and depended-upon programs in this Nation's history.

Social Security is a great American success story, having reduced the percentage of poverty among our Nation's retirees from over 50 percent to 11 percent since the program's inception in 1935. Moreover, Social Security is not simply a retirement program; it is also a program that provides disability and survivor's benefits to over 13 million workers and their families.

Last year this House and this country had a 10-year estimated \$5.6 trillion unified surplus, which included \$3 trillion in non-Social Security surplus. But how times can change. In less than a year, \$4 trillion of that surplus is now gone due to tax cuts, the downturn in our economy, and the war effort.

The greatest tragedy is not simply the diminution of the surplus, but also the fact that the proposed budget now before us in this House diverts \$1.4 trillion of the Social Security trust fund and \$556 billion from the Medicare trust fund to pay for spending and new tax cuts.

I have supported and continue to support tax cuts, specific tax cuts, but not tax cuts that undermine our ability to honor our promises and commitments. I support, as do so many Members of this House, a fiscally responsible plan for our Federal budget, a plan that recognizes the current health of the Social Security trust fund, while also recognizing the need in the future to protect it.

Because of the current strength of the trust fund, we have an opportunity before us as a Nation that we will not have too much longer to protect the reserves that will be vital in ensuring the